

In response to the Office Action dated August 30, 2001, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-59 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add new Claims 61-82 as follows.

—61. (New) An aqueous ink for ink-jet recording, comprising a self-dispersing pigment and a resin encapsulating a coloring material, the self-dispersing pigment and the resin encapsulating a coloring material being dispersed in an aqueous medium.

C! 62. (New) The ink according to Claim 61, wherein the pigment is a carbon black.

Sub ① 63. (New) The ink according to Claim 62, wherein the carbon black is a self-dispersing carbon black to the surface of which at least one hydrophilic group is bonded directly or through another atomic group.

64. (New) The ink according to Claim 63, wherein the hydrophilic group is anionic.

65. (New) The ink according to Claim 64, wherein the resin encapsulating a coloring material has an anionic hydrophilic group at the surface thereof.

66. (New) The ink according to Claim 63, wherein the hydrophilic group is cationic.

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67. (New) The ink according to Claim 66, wherein the resin encapsulating a coloring material has a cationic hydrophilic group at the surface thereof.

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68. (New) The ink according to Claim 61, further comprising a pigment dispersant.

69. (New) The ink according to Claim 68, wherein the dispersant has an anionic hydrophilic group when the hydrophilic group bonded to the surface of the self-dispersing carbon black is anionic.

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Cont.

70. (New) The ink according to Claim 68, wherein the dispersant has a cationic hydrophilic group when the hydrophilic group bonded to the surface of the self-dispersing carbon black is cationic.

71. (New) The ink according to Claim 61, wherein the coloring material is a water-insoluble dye.

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72. (New) The ink according to Claim 61, wherein the coloring material is a pigment.

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73. (New) The ink according to Claim 61, wherein the pigment and the coloring material have the same color.

74. (New) The ink according to Claim 61, wherein the coloring material is encapsulated in a microcapsule made of the resin.

75. (New) An ink cartridge, comprising an ink container containing an ink according to Claim 61.

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cont. 61,

76. (New) A recording unit, comprising:

an ink container containing an ink according to Claim

a recording head, and

means for feeding the ink from the ink container to  
the recording head.

77. (New) An ink set comprising a first ink and a

second ink in combination, wherein the first ink is an ink  
according to Claim 61, and each of the first and second inks has  
a color selected from the group consisting of yellow, magenta,  
cyan, black, red, green and blue.

78. (New) An image recording process, comprising the

step of applying an ink according to Claim 61 to a recording  
medium by an ink-jet process.

79. (New) An image recording process, comprising the

step of applying at least two color inks to a recording medium  
using an ink-jet method to form a multi-color image, wherein one  
ink is an ink according to Claim 66 or 70, and the other ink  
comprises a compound having an anionic group.

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61; and

80. An image recording apparatus, comprising:  
an ink container containing an ink according to Claim  
an ink-jet head for ejecting the ink.

81. (New) An image recording apparatus, comprising:  
ink containers containing first and second inks  
respectively, and a recording head for ejecting the respective  
inks, wherein the first ink is an ink according to Claim 66 or  
70, and the second ink is an anionic ink.

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82. (New) An aqueous ink for an ink-jet printing  
process comprising:  
a colorant comprised of a self-dispersing pigment and  
a resin encapsulating a coloring material in a certain amount,  
the self-dispersing pigment and the resin encapsulating a  
coloring material being dispersed in an aqueous medium, wherein  
the ink provides an image whose optical density is substantially  
equivalent to that formed by an ink comprising the self-  
dispersing pigment as a sole colorant in the certain amount.